

LIBERTY SAND SCRIPT



17TH SIGNAL BATTALION

ISSUE 3

MARCH 1, 2005

COMMANDERS CORNER



inspecting sites and checking on Soldiers. From Magic Mountain to FOB Warhorse and the Baqubah Police Station, the Gladiators looked great and morale was high. Of special note, Our sol-

diers across the entire area of operations continue to perform superbly.

The R&R program kicked off earlier than anticipated. In all reality, that is a good thing, as R&R is a privilege and like many things not a guarantee. By starting early, we can be sure to give more soldiers the opportunity to take R&R. To give you an idea of how we handle R&R, the battalion is given a certain number of allocations at a regular interval and then distributes allocations to each company. Each company then determines who will go on R&R leave. The companies solicited input from every soldier on their desired dates

to take R&R when the opportunity arises. While it in no way guarantees a slot on a particular date, it helps to build a tentative schedule. However, I would caution families from making financial commitments based on this input. Because we cannot guarantee any slots at a specific period of time, do not make any reservations or financial obligations. We will work hard to get as many soldiers as possible the opportunity to take R&R and as close to the dates that they prefer. Additionally, we have some soldiers who will have the opportunity to take a pass to either Qatar or Lake Dokan in northern Iraq. Going on pass does not impact a soldier's possibility of going on R&R.

Overall, it has been a very good couple of weeks. Our soldiers continue to do a great job and they continue to impress me with their can do attitudes and their professionalism. We Lead The Way! - LEADER 6



AO LIBERTY, IRAQ - Greetings again from Iraq. Now that the network is largely established we enter the new phase of maintaining and improving the systems while temperatures begin to rise. Our focus remains constant: mission, force protection and standard of living improvements. A great deal of work has gone into site improvement by hardening sites with Hesco barriers, replacing worn sandbags and providing shade for shelters and generators.

CSM Grigsby and I have just returned from a great two day visit with the Charlie Company Gladiators. We spent two days on the road,

Inside this issue:

HHC HEROS	2
ALPHA COMPANY EAGLES	3
BRAVO COMPANY WARRIORS	4
CHARLIE COMPANY GLADIATORS	5
DELTA COMPANY DAWGS	6
578TH COMPANY KNIGHTS	7
CHAPLAINS COMMENTS	8

ISSUE 3

HHC HEROS



SGT Wallace and SGT Long

Greetings Family and Friends,

The Heroes continue to do great things. Whether it is flying the other side of Iraq to deliver a piece of equipment, picking up the mail, or monitoring the network in the

Batcon, HHC soldiers continue to provide unwavering support for the rest of the battalion on a daily basis.

Though there are always improvements to be made, we have pretty much finished setting up our work and living areas and are settling into routines. Also the weather is slowly warming up, but is still very comfortable.

Congratulations to SSG O'Neal, SSG

Mosely, SSG Gascho, SGT Ringrose, SGT Salles, CPL Marcellus, and SPC Anderson on their reenlistments and recommitment to the Army. Farwell to SFC Kiehl, the battalion career counselor, who recently redeployed and is PCSing to Fort Carson. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication. Until next time, take care.



PFC Kern ready for his convoy

“WELCOME TO THE DESERT”, GOES OUT TO SSG MOSLEY AND MSG PETERSON,.

-17TH SIGNAL BATTALION



SSG Mosley Reenellisting



ABusy Morning at BATCON



Aday full of Painting

ISSUE 3

ALPHA EAGLES

Alpha Company has finally settled into our living areas. We are hard at work trying to improve our living and work surroundings. A large portion of the company resides in what we affectionately call the "Ranch Houses". Each house has 5 to 6 rooms in them with a porch and a few of them have running water. Our goal is to try to get running water in all of them.

The rest of the company lives with their supported unit or in Containerized Housing Units (CHUs). There is still much work to be done as we continue with our Signal Mission and continue to improve all our sites.

The weather has warmed up a bit. It is now in the 70's in the day and 50's to 60's at night. We are not looking forward to the oppressive summer heat, but we will deal with it as best we can.

Fortunately there is plenty of free water and Gatorade

for the company. Some soldiers have even taken a liking to the Non alcoholic Beer available at the PX and at the mess hall. Alpha Company 121st Signal has finally left to rejoin their families and friends in Kitzingen. We wish them well and good luck in the future. We hope our transition in 10 months will work out as smoothly as it did with the 121st.

We also want to wish SSG Homer Darkis good luck as he has been chosen to represent the 17th Signal Bat-



A taste of the living Quarters for Alpha

Brigade. His duties take him to the Baghdad vicinity. LT Briseno and SFC Whitby of second Platoon have unveiled a new Mascot and Motto: "Messengers of Might".

Congratulations to the newest proud parents in Alpha Company.

SPC William Hancock and wife Angie on the birth of their baby boy Calvin on 14 Jan. (8lbs 9oz)

SPC Nyguen and wife Katjia on their twins Aaliyah and Alyssa.

Please wish them all well.



JEANETTE
AND I ALSO
HAD A BIRTH:
ANDREW
JULIAN
OBANDO
BORN ON 12
FEB. (6 LBS
4OZ)

-CPT OBANDO



talion as a liaison officer for the 35th Signal

BRAVO WARRIORS

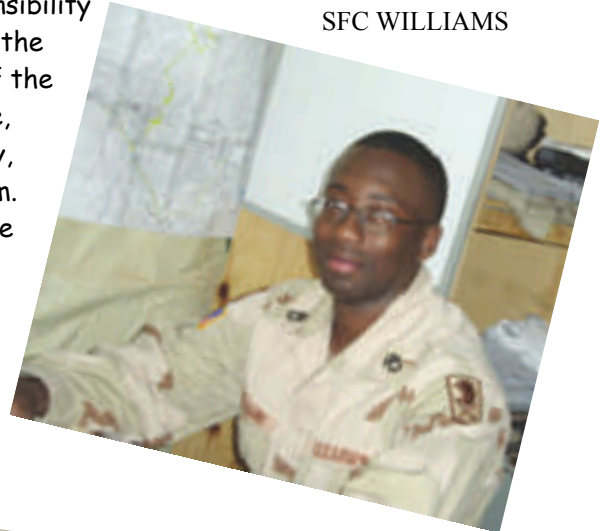
On Monday, 21 February 2005, I had the pleasure of playing a part in the Transfer of Authority ceremony for FOB Mackenzie. The moment recognized 1 / 4 Cavalry's year of service, its great courage for operating in a notoriously dangerous zone, and the individual acts of heroism under fire carried out by its soldiers, as the unit redeploys back to Schweinfurt, Germany. It also highlighted the valor and bravery of 1 / 15th Infantry as it stepped in to take over

the monumental task of safeguarding the region. Not solely intended to sing the praises of our soldiers, the ceremony was also for the Iraqi Army, as it serves side by side with American GIs. The IA received accolades for playing an active roll and making the ultimate sacrifice in securing its freedom and safety from terrorists. While the dangers of traveling down these roadways are well-documented, Iraqi dignitaries pressed their way to see 1 / 4 Cavalry's commander hand the guidance over to 1 / 15th Infantry's commander, solidifying in

their hearts and minds the commitment of the United States Army to securing freedom for their land and their people. With the passing of the colors, FOB Mackenzie officially became home for the next year for elements of B Co 17th Signal Battalion. As we take over this piece of land, we take on the enormous responsibility of ensuring the wellbeing of the Iraqi people, their safety, and freedom. We Lead the Way!



SFC WILLIAMS



SGT BERTAND



1SG PELE

"WARRIORS!"



CHARLIE GLADIATORS



Super RAU 15 team before departing to Baqubah Iraqi Police Station. (From left, SPC Markel, PV2 Roca, SPC Bettencourt, PFC Rosario, SGT Helsel.)

Charlie Company is finally starting to see the results of their hard work. After a long month, life here is finally starting to settle down and the network is stabilizing dramatically. After about two weeks straight of different outages, BATCON responded by sending nothing but their best as far as Tech support and we just received the big boost we needed by having some visitors from the Battalion Headquarters come to the area. CW2 Zotti, the network controller, came down and worked his magic with the Node Center. SSG (P) Evans tagged along to give COMSEC and equipment upgrades. Since their visit, we have been running smoothly and

steadily. CSM Grisby also stopped by to check on the welfare of the Gladiators of Camp Caldwell and noticed the positive improvement and direction the soldiers had established since the RIP with the 279 SIG BN. The system is also due to get more expansive equipment in the form of a satellite phone and radios with a PROMINA system for a more diverse and reliable communications network for the customers. Charlie is really showing who "LEADS THE WAY".

Good News: Jaymie Josephine Helsel. Born on the morning of 26 January. Mother, Vrony, and baby are doing well in Kitzingen.

James Eugene Kroft, III. Born on 19 February at 11:19CT. 8 lbs, 8 oz, 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Mother, Susan Ann, and baby are doing well in Florida.

PV2 Turner is now advanced to PFC.

1LT Millsaps made the Captains' Board and will be promoted sometime near the turn of the year.

B61 before departing for FOB Normandy. (From left, PFC Luna-Diego, PFC Hemmings, SPC Thompson, SSG Gonzalez, PV2 Burgess.)



NC operators SPC James and PFC Fiola armed and ready at FOB Warhorse.



**"R&R SLOTS
ARE
BECOMING
AVAILABLE
ALREADY,
EARLIER
THAN WE
EXPECTED."**

-CHARLIE

DELTA DAWGS

Training, preparation, convoy, set-up! Now that D co. is completely in system routine kicks in. The LEN Platoon has spawned a life style and routine that takes the bite out of deployment. The direct leadership of the soldiers asked what kind of shift they would prefer during the deployment. Soldiers like Pv2. Hager said "I would like to work alone or with just the team chiefs. We always are able to work together and get *it* done!" Others liked to Work during the "swing" shift because they could sleep in. As the shifts were handed out the soldiers found themselves with the

right balance of work and free-time. As the other companies showed wear and tear with results of a systems crash or Links replaced Delta Company stayed strong!

Many would think that it's because of the exceptional leadership. SGT Cruce thinks "The Routine give soldiers and leadership time to build a bond. With this bond

comes great team work that gives the shift a new beat and rhythm."



PFC Carpenter, Scott. His replay was worthy of mention

As time passes Delta will do what Delta does best. Accomplish missions and look good doing it.

A CONVERSATION BETWEEN FRIENDS:

PFC. Pfister: "Hey Carpenter! Can I ask you a question!?"

PFC. Carpenter: "... sure..." Sitting up just enough to make his eyes pass his pillow.

P: What's your weapons name?

C: ... "Jury"

P: "What Jerry?"

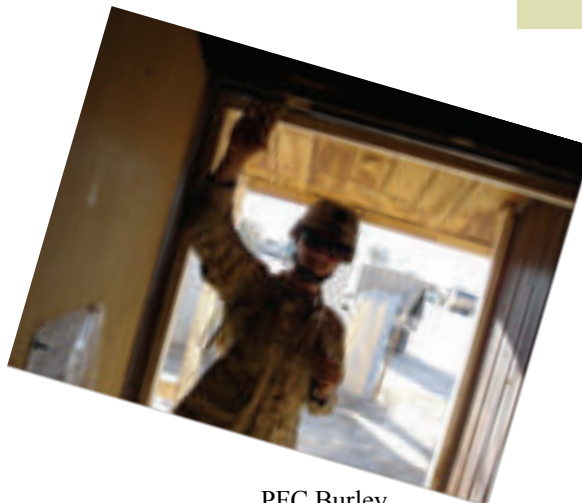
C: "No! Jury... because I'm the judge and it's the jury!" Just before his head hit the pillow to fall asleep.

P: oh! Ha-ha! Thanks!

-PFC Pfister and PFC Carpwnter



PV2 Hager



PFC Burley

578th "KNIGHTS"

The 578th Signal Company is rounding its month and a half mark of being deployed with

about a month in our current locations here in sunny



Iraq. It's kind of scary when you walk outside in February and realize that it's swimming weather, so we just sit here and wait to brave another scorching summer in our second home.

Here in Headquarters Platoon our own personal construction team consisting of SGT Mullins and SPC Barrigar transformed some kind of Iraqi flight training room into a fully functional Company Operations. That fact is all the more impressive when

you note that the room is above 17th HHC's Operations. I suppose HHC's Operations de-

serves a little thank you for patiently putting up with the week of extremely loud noise and chaos. SGT Mullins and SPC Barrigar were very deservedly presented with Battalion coins from CSM Grigsby and LTC Kennedy for their efforts. Our TACSAT teams have been working out the last little bugs to become 100% operational, whether that be chopping down a tree or simply fixing the problem by taking your system out of loopback (go Dragons), and

Tropo has been doing whatever it is that Tropo does down south, nothing illegal I'm sure. Our Company XO restarted writing the notorious rumor mill section in his monthly article. He took a cheap shot at the circumference of my head, but I'll be the bigger man and not joke about the bottle of Rogaine I found in his room.

One more thing to mention is that 578th will be having its own monthly newsletter due out at the end of every month featuring articles from each platoon. It will be distributed to the 578th FRG and posted to the 578th website. To get to the 578th website just go to: www.22sigbde.army.mil and follow the links.



"I don't know how to tell you this but I'm kind of a big deal"

"Well, I'm happy for you"

"I own many leather-bound books and my apartment smells of rich mahogany"

-The Anchor man

CHAPLAINS COMMENTS



LOVE

Have you ever considered what it means to love someone? Love is far deeper than the attraction that a man has for a woman or a woman for a man. Love is much more complex and much more substantive than the deep affection that a parent has for a child or a child for a parent. Love transcends any kind of affection that automatically comes naturally to us as humans. When one truly loves the way God would have us to love, one immediately enters into a dimension of other worldliness. When we mount up upon the shoulders of love, we reach transcendent heights that the universe, itself, cannot even contain. Love has an uncanny ability to induce a state of perpetual joy and glee even during

times of hardship and distress. I believe there's a simple reason why love has inherent qualities. It's because God is love, and since nothing is greater than God, then nothing can be greater than love. Evil can't extinguish it and no vice can discourage it.

So as we invite God to become an integral part of our lives, know that we are in communion with the infinite source from which love comes. To truly love requires loving the way God loves, and God only loves unconditionally. To love unconditionally does not come naturally for us, consequently we must learn it and intentionally practice it. To place conditions on love is not to love at all. To say I will love you only IF you are nice to me, or IF I like you, or IF you agree with me etc. are examples of placing conditions on love which inevitably thwarts it. We must love those who are

seemingly unlovable. Pray for those whom we find most detestable and then we will begin to unlock the mystery of love. Jesus Christ says that "the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, and strength." And "the second is to love your neighbor as you love yourself." Love - the most powerful four-letter word in the universe - is also the least often used and the most misunderstood. Let us seek to understand love as we seek to get closer with God during this time of separation from our loved ones. As we do this, we will discover that we have become the most powerful creatures in the universe - creatures of LOVE.

May God's love rest upon us all!

Church Band



Church Band

TO LOVE
UNCONDITIONALLY DOES NOT COME NATURALLY FOR US, CONSEQUENTLY WE MUST LEARN IT AND INTENTIONALLY PRACTICE IT.

-CHAPLAIN THOMAS

